Self Help Groups' in the Distance Education mode, for functionaries in the field of women's development and empowerment has been initiated by the Department with the collaboration of Indira Gandhi National Open University and Indian Space Research Organisation.

The Government has been regularly reviewing the laws concerning women in order to remove gender bias and to make them more stringent and effective to protect the rights of women.

All the activities build up self confidence in women and they become capable of participating in social and national activities of the country.

Promotion of Bengali language

1451. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Centrally funded programme to promote Bengali one of the richest modern languages; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Government is committed to the promotion and development of all the Indian languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution including Bengali.

The Central Institute of Indian Languages, (Mysore) (CIIL) a subordinate office of the Department, conducts the following programmes for the promotion of Bengali.

(i) 10 months Intensive Training Programme in Bengali for non-native learners.

(ii) Training and Instruction in Bengali through distance education mode and correspondence courses.

(iii) In service training for Bengali school teachers Besides, audio, audio-video and computer-aided language teaching

and online teaching materials in Bengali are under preparation by CIIL.

Besides, the Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous body of the Department of Culture, also gives awards for creative literature in Bengali and publishes Bengali works. It also organizes national and international seminars and symposia on distinguished Bengali writers.

The State Government also have their own schemes and programmes for the promotion and development of Indian languages.

World summit on children

1452. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the World summit for children at Copenhagen, 1990, a total of about $ 147 billion were to be generated for investment to directly benefit children, but less than $ 6 billion has been the contribution of the economically more privileged nations;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a big gap; and

(c) to what extent Indian children have been benefited from the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, Questions do not arise.

CBSE Assistance to Dyslexia Affected Students

1453. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education provides certain facilities/concessions to handicpped students suffering from Dyslexia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the assistance given to write answers in final examinations?